

Questions Asked
During
Medical Needs Shelter Training
July 21, 2006

- Q. If the Governor declares a state of emergency, which one of the Medical Needs Shelters would be opened first?
- A. The Department of Public Health will determine if either the Mobile Shelter or the Montgomery Shelter will open first. EMA will determine when the Jefferson County Shelter opens.
- Q. How will the determination be made as to which shelter is opened?
- A. It will be the “best educated guess”, strategic location, EMA areas, evacuation routes, etc.
- Q. How will staff be protected from dangerous situations that may develop in shelters?
- A. If there are safety issue concerns, EOC has staff on standby, make sure the EMA director knows of your concerns.
- Q. In one location, a grandmother came in with several grandchildren. One of the grandchildren was a special needs child. How do we determine if she can stay with all the children?
- A. The rule is one patient/one caretaker, but most locations are lax in this area due to trying to keep families together.
- Q. Will interpreters be available?
- A. The Public Health Social Workers will have resources in every shelter. Make sure this issue is sent up to EOC.
- Q. Who decides who qualifies to be in the shelters?
- A. In depth work is being done, including legislation, education, etc., to determine who is ‘appropriate’ and who needs to go to a hospital, etc.
- Q. What about “certification” of the building?
- A. The building will be certified in writing.
- Q. Form for registration of occupants?

A. The Red Cross does not want us using their form in Medical Needs Shelters. We will be providing a form to use.

Q. What shelters have been designated as Medical Needs Shelters?

A. The U of A Field House has been designated; the Washington and Cullman County sites are still in the discussion phase. In Washington, the EMA Director has resigned and there may only be a secondary site. In Cullman, site visits are still being made but it looks like it will go to the Junior College in Hanceville.

Q. What role will DHR staff play at the two-year college sites?

A. DHR has no active role; Red Cross and the college personnel will run these.

The Department of Public Health will be up front, side-by-side with DHR staff when Medical Needs Shelters are open.

All teams in Medical Needs Shelters will have SouthernLINCs (as long as the towers are still standing) and laptops.

Do not want to publicize the names and locations of the Shelters until everything is running correctly. A press statement has already been prepared for the shelters when they open.